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Renata Hesse  
Trial Attorney  
Antitrust Division  
Department of Justice  
601 D Street NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20530

~~Dear Ms. Hesse:~~

I don't often write letters to government officials. As a small business owner, I have become concerned about the impact the litigation against Microsoft might have on my access to integrated software products. It appears that the proposed settlement to the lawsuit will allow me continued access to these products while at the same time satisfying the concerns of computer manufacturers, software designers and other consumers.

Under the agreement, Microsoft will allow computer manufacturers to configure the Windows system so that other software programs that compete with Microsoft can be used. New versions of Windows will make it easier to add or remove access features built into Windows. The provisions relating to contractual restrictions and intellectual property rights provide additional assurances to Microsoft competitors.

The settlement seems to be a fair compromise for all concerned. It promotes a competitive technology environment and ends the three-year lawsuit, allowing computer and software companies to get back to building a stronger economy for our nation.

Sincerely,



Emily Ballance